

## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IT  
SUBJECT: DISAGREEMENT ON LABOR UNITY AT TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE

REF: ROME'S 5557

1. EARLIER INDICATIONS OF SHARP DIFFERENCES ON THE LABOR UNITY ISSUE ARE BEING BORNE OUT AS THE CONVOCATION OF THE GENERAL COUNCILS OF CGIL, CISL AND UIL GOES INTO ITS THIRD AND FINAL DAY. THE LABOR UNITY PROJECT PRESENTED BY CISL SEC GEN STORTI ON THE FIRST DAY (APRIL 16) HAS BEEN THE FOCUS OF DISCUSSION. THE DEBATE HAS RANGED FROM THE UNEQUIVOCAL OPPOSITION VOICED BY CISL MINORITY LEADER SCALIA TO A CALL BY CGIL NATIONAL SECRETARY SCHEDA (PCI) FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF UNITY "AT ALL COSTS," EVEN THAT OF "A REGRETTABLE FRACTURE" IN LABOR'S RANKS.

2. THE STRENGTHENED RANKS OF UNITY OPPONENTS NOW SEEM TO INCLUDE CISL NATIONAL SECRETARY MARINI AND UIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PRESIDENT FRANCO SIMONCINI (PSI), BOTH OF WHOM SPOKE OUT AGAINST THE STORTI PLAN THOUGH LESS OUTSPOKENLY THAN SCALIA. AMONG UNITY ADVOCATES, CISL METAL WORKERS CHIEF BENTIVOGLI RENEWED

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HIS CALL FOR THE EXPULSION OF SCALIA FROM TRADE UNION RANKS.

3. THE TRAGIC DEVELOPMENTS IN MILAN (BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY) PROVIDED ONE OF THE VERY FEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR AN EXPRESSION OF UNITY. THE ASSEMBLED GENERAL COUNCILS CALLED UNANIMOUSLY FOR A NATIONAL GENERAL STRIKE OF ONE HOUR TODAY, APRIL 18, IN PROTEST AGAINST "THE SPIRALING VIOLENCE WILLED AND REALIZED BY THE DESTRUCTIVE FORCES OF FASCISM." THE CCU SECRETARIAT IS ALSO CONSIDERING A PROPOSAL TO BROADEN THE FOUR-HOUR NATIONAL GENERAL STRIKE DECLARED FOR APRIL 22 INTO AN EIGHT-HOUR STRIKE, INCLUDING A MAJOR DEMONSTRATION IN MILAN.

4. COMMENT: THE LATEST OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE CAME ALMOST AS A WELCOME RESPITE FROM THE GROWING DIVISION OVER LABOR UNITY. ADVOCATES WILL DOUBTLESS SEEK TO UTILIZE THE EVENT AS PROOF OF THE NEED FOR MERGER. NEVERTHELESS, THE MEETING IS LIKELY TO CONCLUDE WITH A DECISION TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF A UNITY TIMETABLE UNTIL SOME TIME AFTER THE JUNE 15 ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTIONS. STORTI'S PLAN MAY NOT EVEN COME TO A VOTE. IF IT SHOULD, HOWEVER, A HANDY MAJORITY IS ASSURED SINCE THE THREE GENERAL COUNCILS ARE DISPARATE IN SIZE: THE CGIL HAS 211 MEMBERS, THE CISL 137 AND THE UIL 109.BEAUDRY

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